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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,909	11/16/2001	Isao Kameyama	011524	7934

23850 7590 03/29/2004

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EXAMINER

MCCAMEY, ANN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,909

Applicant(s)

KAMEYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Ann M McCamey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004 and 12 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/17/04 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahroni (US 6,079,848) in view of Yamamoto et al. (US 5,675,890).

Regarding claim 1, Ahroni discloses the invention substantially as claimed including:

an auxiliary device 24;

a base board 20 provided with said auxiliary device and a plurality of terminals 28 each with a pair of leading pressure contact blades with a predetermined shape; and

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a case 23 in which said base board is mounted;
a connecting portion 19 provided in said case and including at least one wire;
and

a plurality of wire fixing portions 36, 36' hugging the at least one wire
wherein said terminals on the base board and said connecting portion in said case are electrically connected as a connector by mounting said base board on the case;

wherein positioning portions having a plurality of pressure contact receiving grooves (Fig. 7) each with a complementary shape as the predetermined shape of each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades so as to accommodate each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades; and

wherein said wire fixing portions 36, 36' extend upwardly from the receiving grooves (See Fig. 3 and 7).

Ahroni does not disclose each of the pressure contact receiving grooves being pre-formed. Yamamoto et al. teach pre-formed receiving grooves (between 99,101 and 103) to accommodate the contact blades of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to pre-form the grooves of Ahroni as Yamamoto et al. teach to prevent deformation of the contact blades during mating.

Regarding claim 2, Ahroni discloses said terminals are pressure contact type terminals, wherein said connecting portion includes electric wires 19, wherein a pressure contact type connector provided with said pressure contact type terminals is mounted on said base board, wherein said case is provided with a connector housing

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having said electric wires therein, wherein said connector is formed by press-fitting said base board into said case to connect said pressure contact type terminals with said electric wires by pressure, wherein said positioning portions include electric wire setting portions and pressure contact blade receiving grooves, wherein pressure contact connecting of the terminal and the electric wires is done by leading pressure contact blades of said pressure contact type terminals into said pressure contact blade receiving grooves.

Regarding claim 3, Ahroni discloses a pair of said pressure contact blades formed in said pressure contact type terminal are guided by corner edges of said pressure contact blade receiving grooves.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahroni in view of Yamamoto et al., as applied to claims 1-3 above, further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("A.A.P.A.").

Ahroni discloses the invention substantially as claimed, but does not disclose the auxiliary device being a camera module. A.A.P.A. teaches a camera module as an auxiliary device. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the use of the device module and use it with a camera module to improve the connection between a camera module and mating component.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann M McCamey whose telephone number is (571) 272-2010. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ex. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AMM
March 22, 2004


RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER